

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 2-6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 21, 26, 28, 32, and 34, cancel claims 1, 10, 13-19, 22-25, 27, and 29-31 and add claims 35-50. Thus, claims 2-6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 21, 26, 28, and 32-50 are pending. No new matter is added. Support for new claims 35-50 may be found at least in the previously pending claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Chambers in the March 22 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks. Specifically, Applicants amend claims 2-6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 21, 26, 28, 32, and 34 to comply with Examiner Chambers' helpful suggestions made during the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 9-26, and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,394,902 to Shibao. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1, 10, 13-19, 22-25. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 10, 13-19, 22-25 is inconsistent with the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 10, 13-19, 22-25.

As agreed during the personal interview, Shibao does not disclose that the upper tank portion includes a filler tube having an end positioned in such a manner that, during filling, the fuel drops from the filler tube into the monolithic compartment, as recited in claims 32 and 34.

Furthermore, as agreed during the personal interview, Shibao does not disclose that the fuel pump, including a fuel pump housing, is entirely within the shell, as recited in amended claims 32 and 34.

Accordingly, as agreed during the personal interview, claims 32 and 34 are allowable over Shibao. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 21, 26, and 33 are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 32 is allowable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 21, 26, and 32-34.

The Office Action rejects claims 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibao. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 27, 29, and 30. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 27, 29, and 30 is inconsistent with the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27, 29, and 30.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 28 to depend from allowable claim 34. Accordingly, claim 28 is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 34 is allowable as well as for the additional features it recites. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of claim 28.

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 10 and add new claim 35 that corresponds to the subject matter of claim 10 in independent form. Applicants also add new claims 36-50, corresponding to previously pending claims and depending from new claim 35. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 35-50 are patentable for at least the reasons that canceled claim 10 was patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Finally, during the prosecution of a corresponding European Application, Applicants representative obtained an English language translation of EP 0 864 458 A1. EP 0 864 458 A1 was cited by Applicants in an Information Disclosure Statement filed January 8, 2002 and considered by Examiner Chambers on March 28, 2003. Applicants attach the English language translation of EP 0 864 458 A1 hereto for the convenience of the Patent Office.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-6, 9, 11-26, 28-30, and 32-58.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:JOC/tea

Attachment:

English Language translation of EP 0 864 458 A1

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